

# Board of Trustees Considers Three Financing Options for Improvements to Weld County Road 13

High priority improvements need to be made to Weld County Road 13 (WCR 13) in the Town of Frederick to address safety-related problems and provide better traffic flow. During the last several years, the Town has installed temporary patches and other short-term fixes along WCR 13. These short-term repairs have been made as monies have been available.

Given the importance of WCR 13 to our community, the Town of Frederick has been evaluating a number of financing options to address reconstruction of this vital road. Following is a summary of the three financing options being considered by the Town Council. Option 3 would require placing a ballot question on the April 2006 ballot, pending approval at the January 26 Board Meeting.

## OPTION 1 Continued reactionary maintenance (temporary fix)

- **Timeline.** On-going.
- **Improvements.** Surface treatments (asphalt overlays) applied to worst sections of WCR 13.
- **Project Scope.** Offers only temporary relief since the issues with rutting and lack of drainage are caused by the weak materials that make up the road base beneath the asphalt. This approach requires on-going attention and would NOT include any intersection improvements.
- **Project Cost.** Cost would be several hundred thousand dollars each time a temporary fix is made.

## OPTION 2 Reconstruction of road on a “pay-as-we-go” basis

- **Timeline.** Five- to seven-year construction period (since the Town does not have sufficient funds to do the entire project all at once).
- **Improvements.** Complete reconstruction of WCR 13 in phases over five to seven years. Road improvements spanning from WCR 20 south to Colorado Highway 52, including significant intersection improvements at Highway 52, WCR 18, 1st Street, 5th Street, and the new 13th Street adjacent to the future Miner’s Park Town Center development. This would be a long-term solution to the existing weak road base and surface treatment.
- **Project Cost.** A pay-as-we-go approach would cost more than pursuing a bond issue (Option 3). The higher cost is primarily due to annually increasing costs of construction and the annually recurring costs of mobilizing construction equipment.

## OPTION 3 Bond issue approach

- **Timeline.** One-year construction period.
- **Improvements.** Complete reconstruction of WCR 13 within one-year construction period. Road improvements spanning from WCR 20 south to Colorado Highway 52, including significant intersection improvements at Highway 52, WCR 18, 1st Street, 5th Street, and the new 13th Street adjacent to the future Miner’s Park Town Center development. This would be a long-term solution to the existing weak road base and surface treatment.
- **Project Cost.** Dollars generated from existing sales taxes as well as fees tied to new residential and commercial development would be used to borrow the resources needed for the entire project WITHOUT increasing taxes. This is the lowest projected cost alternative for a long-term fix to WCR 13.



## WCR 13 Improvement Plan (Addressed by Financing Options 2 or 3)

Road improvements spanning from  
WCR 20 south to Colorado  
Highway 52.

Significant intersection  
improvements at:

- Highway 52
- WCR 18
- 1st Street
- 5th Street
- New 13th Street (adjacent to the  
future Miner's Park Town Center  
development)

